## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method of disassembling a preloaded and interlocked assembly having a first element and a second element, the method comprising:

heating the first element comprising an initial dimension to a first temperature sufficient to expand the initial dimension to a first dimension, the first dimension greater than the initial dimension; and

removing the first element from the assembly

wherein the preloaded and interlocked assembly comprises at least one of the first element or the second element being deformed, wherein the first element can only be removed from the assembly when the first element reaches the first temperature, and wherein heating the first element from the assembly is a means to disassemble the assembly.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein a coefficient of thermal expansion of the first element comprises a first value and a coefficient of thermal expansion of the assembly comprises a second value, the first value different than the second value.

17-19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the first element is a metal having a thermal expansion coefficient of between approximately 10 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter and approximately 25 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the first element is fashioned from aluminum.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the first element further comprises a polymer.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the polymer has a coefficient of thermal expansion between approximately 0 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter and approximately 1000 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter.

24-31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein a means of heating the first element is one or more members selected from the group consisting of a hot liquid, a heating torch, an induction heating oven, a radiator, a heating pad, and a remote heating device.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein a means of heating the first element is one or more members selected from the group consisting of a hot liquid, a heating torch, an induction heating oven, a radiator, a heating pad, and a remote heating device.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the means of heating the first element is a hot liquid.

35-37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising

a preliminary step of heating the first element and adding the heated first element to the second element so as to create the preloaded and interlocked assembly such that at least one of the first element or the second element is deformed.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the preliminary step further comprises cooling the first element from a first temperature to a third temperature wherein the third temperature is lower than the first temperature and the third temperature is sufficient to contract the first dimension to a lesser third dimension to interlock the assembly.

40. (Previously Presented) A method of disassembling a preloaded and interlocked assembly wherein the assembly is comprised of a first element and a second element wherein at least one of the first element and second element is deformed, the method comprising:

heating the first element comprising an initial dimension to a first temperature sufficient to expand the initial dimension to a first dimension, the first dimension greater than the initial dimension wherein the first element and the second element are metals; and

removing the first element from the assembly when the first element reaches the first temperature

wherein the first element has a thermal expansion coefficient of between approximately 10 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter and approximately 25 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Withdrawn) A method of disassembling a preloaded and interlocked assembly comprising:

heating a first element comprising an initial diameter, where the first element is part of the assembly, to a first temperature sufficient to expand the initial diameter to a first diameter, the first diameter greater than the initial diameter; and

removing the first element from the assembly

wherein the first element can be removed from the assembly when the first element reaches the first temperature, and wherein heating the first element to the first temperature when associated with the assembly is a means to disassemble the assembly

wherein the first element has a thermal expansion coefficient of between approximately 10 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter and approximately 25 micrometers per degree Celsius per meter.

43. (Previously Presented) A method of creating or disassembling a preloaded and interlocked assembly wherein the assembly is comprised of a first element and a second element, the method comprising:

heating the first element comprising an initial dimension to a first temperature sufficient to expand the initial dimension to a first dimension, the first dimension greater than the initial dimension wherein the first dimension allows

removal of the first element from the assembly thereby disassembling the assembly, or

coupling of the first element and the second element, wherein upon cooling of the first element from the first temperature to a third temperature, the first element contacts the second element causing a mechanical interference which deforms at least one of the first element or the second element, thereby creating the assembly.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the method is for disassembling the assembly.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the method is for creating the assembly.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the assembly is at least partially snap-fit.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the first element comprising the third dimension contacts the second element causing mechanical interference such that at least one of the first element or the second element is deformed to preload the assembly.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the preloaded and interlocked assembly remains assembled by frictional forces and mechanical interferences.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the first element contacts the second element such that no clearance exists between the first element and the second element.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the mechanical interference deforms the first element.

51. (Withdrawn) A method of creating or disassembling a preloaded and interlocked assembly wherein the assembly is comprised of a first element and a second element, the method comprising:

heating the first element comprising an initial dimension to a first temperature sufficient to expand the initial dimension to a first dimension, the first dimension greater than the initial dimension wherein the first dimension allows

removal of the first element from the assembly thereby disassembling the assembly, or

coupling of the first element and the second element, wherein the first dimension of the first element provides a clearance such that the second element can be coupled with the first element and wherein upon cooling of the first element from the first temperature to a third

temperature, the first element contacts the second element causing a mechanical interference which deforms at least one of the first element or the second element, thereby creating the assembly.